

PATENT
871870-6

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: HEDMAN et al.

Art Unit:

Serial No.:

Filed:

Examiner:

Title: METHOD OF KILLING ORGANISMS
AND REMOVAL OF TOXINS IN
ENCLOSURES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

December 10, 2001

Page 2

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 2, before "FIELD OF THE INVENTION" please insert the following:

RELATED APPLICATION DATA

This is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial Number 09/321,915, filed May 28, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,327,812 on December 11, 2001.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-17.

Please add the following new claims:

18. (New) A method for killing organisms and removing of toxic substances from an enclosure, which comprises the steps of:

preparing an enclosure having an interior and an exterior for exposure to a high temperature gas by removing or protecting all heat sensitive items;

positioning a plurality of temperature indicating probes at predetermined locations in said enclosure;

providing at least one ingress duct communicating with said interior of said enclosure;

heating an environmentally acceptable gas to a temperature lethal to predetermined organisms;

directing said heated gas into said enclosure through said at least one ingress duct for a time sufficient to raise the temperature of said enclosure to said lethal temperature;

monitoring the temperature from said probes;

recording said temperatures from said probes in real time;

establishing at least a slight positive pressure within said enclosure; and
venting said heated gas from said enclosure.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 18 further including the step of including at least one egress duct, communicating between said interior and said exterior of said enclosure.

20. (New) A method for sanitizing an enclosed structure having an exterior and an interior, comprising the steps of:

preparing said enclosed structure for exposure to a high temperature gas by removing or protecting all heat sensitive items;

disposing a plurality of temperature indicating probes at predetermined locations within said enclosed structure;

heating a gas to a predetermined temperature;

directing said heated gas into said enclosed structure in order to raise the temperature within said enclosed structure to said predetermined temperature;

monitoring the temperature detected from said probes in real time to ensure that all portions of said enclosed structure reach said predetermined temperature; and

venting said heated gas from said enclosed structure.

21. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said predetermined temperature is at least about 120°F.

22. (New) The method according to Claim 20, further including the step of connecting said temperature indicating probes to a console disposed outside said enclosed structure.

23. (New) The method according to Claim 20, further including the step of killing certain organisms within said enclosed structure as a result of raising the temperature to said predetermined temperature, said certain organisms including at least one of fungi; toxic molds, including aspergillus oryzae, aspergillus terreus, aspergillus versicolor, cladosprium herbarum, stachybotrys chartarum, penicillium aurantiogriseum, penicillium chrisogenum, penicillium glabrum, and fusarium oxysporum; bacteria; and insects.

December 10, 2001

Page 5

24. (New) A system for sanitizing an enclosed structure having an exterior and an interior, comprising:

a source of an environmentally acceptable gas;

a heater coupled to said gas source to heat said gas to a predetermined temperature, and means for introducing a flow of said heated gas into said interior of said enclosed structure;

a plurality of temperature indicating probes adapted to be disposed at predetermined locations within said enclosed structure; and

a control unit electrically connected to said plurality of temperature indicating probes to thereby provide an indication of temperature at said predetermined locations within said enclosed structure;

wherein, said heated gas serves to kill organisms and remove toxic substances from within said enclosed structure.

25. (New) The system of Claim 24, wherein said introducing means further comprises at least one duct extending between said exterior and said interior of said enclosed structure.

26. (New) A method for exterminating toxic organisms in a structure, said toxic organisms consisting of least one of fungi; toxic molds, and bacteria, said method comprising the steps of:

heating a gas to a predetermined temperature;

directing said heated gas into said structure in order to raise the temperature within said enclosed structure to said predetermined temperature;

monitoring the temperature in real time to ensure that all portions of said structure reach said predetermined temperature;

maintaining said temperature for a predetermined period of time; and

venting said heated gas from said enclosed structure.

27. (New) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said predetermined temperature is at least about 120°F.

28. (New) The method according to Claim 26, further comprising disposing a plurality of temperature indicating probes at predetermined locations within said enclosed structure;

29. (New) The method according to Claim 28, further including the step of connecting said temperature indicating probes to a console disposed outside said enclosed structure.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said toxic organisms further include aspergillus oryzae, aspergillus terreus, aspergillus versicolor, cladosporium herbarum, stachybotrys chartarum, penicillium aurantiogriseum, penicillium chrisogenum, penicillium glabrum, and fusarium oxysporum.

December 10, 2001
Page 7

REMARKS

Claims 18-30 are pending in this application. The Applicants respectfully request an examination on the merits of the claims presented above.

While the Applicants believe that no additional fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian M. Berliner
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,549

O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP
400 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2899
Telephone: (213) 430-6000